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EXAMINER

MAHMOUDI, HASSAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/608,612

Applicant(s)

KESKAR ET AL.

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DOV POPOVICI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Remarks*

1. In response to communications filed on 30-December-2002, claims 1-22 are amended per applicant's request. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 3, 8-9, 11, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knight et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,703.)

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As to claim 1, Knight et al teaches a method (see column 4, lines 63-65) of automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items provided by a user in a computer system (see Abstract), the method comprising:

providing related (see column 6, lines 53-59), not related (see column 6, lines 49-52, where “information falling into different categories” implies classifying unrelated subjects), and suggestions group areas (see column 26, lines 9-19) for an organization instance, each of these areas to contain items (see column 26, lines 19-27);

receiving at least one example item for the organization instance provided by a user (see column 22, line 66 through column 23, line 12), the at least one example item being placed in the related group area (see “user posting interface routine” in column 23, line 1);

searching a database (see column 10, lines 15-19) to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in the related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing located items in the suggestions group area (see column 10, lines 19-23, where “predetermined criterion” is read on “user filtering criteria”);

modifying the predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of the group areas to another of the group areas (see column 6, lines 34-39, and see column 7, lines 7-17); and

continually searching the database to locate and place additional items in the suggestions group area which are related to the at least one item in the related group area based upon the modified predetermined criterion (see column 15, lines 19-48.)

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As to claims 3, 11, and 18, Knight et al teaches the method further comprising providing a user interface (see column 6, lines 26-39) including visual representations of the related, not related, and suggestions group areas (see column 7, lines 50-53), each visual representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein (see figures 3B and 3C.)

As to claims 8 and 16, Knight et al teaches the method further comprising providing related (see column 6, lines 53-59), not related (see column 6, lines 49-52, where “information falling into different categories” implies classifying unrelated subjects), and suggestions group areas (see column 26, lines 9-19) for at least another organization instance and further comprising modifying the predetermined criterion (see column 10, lines 19-23, where “predetermined criterion” is read on “user filtering criteria”), based on the user moving an item from the related group area of the another organization instance to the not related group area of the one organization instance or from the not related group area of the at least one other organization instance to the related group area of the one organization instance or from the suggestions group area of the another organization instance to the related or not related group areas of the one organization instance (see column 6, lines 34-39, and see column 7, lines 7-17.)

As to claim 9, Knight et al teaches a storage medium (see column 10, lines 40-41) to store a computer program (see column 6, lines 40-46, and see column 8, line 66 through

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column 9, line 2) for automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items that, when executed by a machine (see Abstract), resulting in the following:

For the remaining steps of claim 9, applicant is directed to comments and discussions made in claim 1 above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight et al (U.S. patent No. 6,493,703) in view of Zhai (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,434.)

As to claims 2 and 10, Knight et al teaches predetermined criterion (see column 10, lines 19-23, where “predetermined criterion” is read on “user filtering criteria”).

Knight et al does not teach assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area.

Zhai teaches a method for profile score threshold setting (see Abstract), in which he teaches assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area (see column 2, lines 55-62) and wherein

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located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area (see column 4, lines 25-32.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al to include assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al by the teachings of Zhai, because assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to the at least one item in the related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in the suggestions group area, would enable the system to measure relevancy of data elements and group the data elements into various categories based on their relevance score, for an effective and fast retrieval of information categories based on their relevance to the "example" data entered by the user.

As to claim 17, applicant is directed to comments and discussions made in claims 1, 2, and 8 above.

6. Claims 4-6, 12-14, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight et al (U.S. patent No. 6,493,703) in view of Geary (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,160.)

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As to claims 4, 12, and 19 Knight et al does not teach wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area.

Geary teaches an apparatus and method for searching non-linear databases (see Abstract), in which he teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area (see column 42, lines 36-48, where “moving” is read on “dragging”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al to include wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al by the teaching of Geary, because the user selectively moving an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation of the one group area to a visual representation of the another group area, would enable the user to physically categorize his/her selections into a desired category, based on the relevance factors of subject matters, and via the graphical user interface.



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As to claims 5, 13, and 20, Knight et al as modified teaches wherein the user interface comprises a graphical user interface (see Knight et al, column 7, lines 46-48) and the visual representations of the group areas each comprises a pane on a display (see Knight et al, column 11, lines 21-31, where “a pane on a display” is read on “separate screen display area”.)

As to claims 6, 14, and 21 Knight et al as modified teaches wherein the user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via the user interface (see Knight et al, column 7, lines 46-48) by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of the one group area to a pane of the another group area (see Geary, column 42, lines 36-48.)

7. Claims 7, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight et al (U.S. patent No. 6,493,703) in view of Pickering et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,695.)

As to claims 7, 15, and 22, Knight et al does not teach wherein each of the items indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page.

Pickering et al teaches a method for routing customer interactions across media types (see Abstract), in which he teaches wherein each of the items indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page (see column 3, lines 37-53.)

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al to include wherein each of the items indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knight et al by the teaching of Pickering et al, because wherein each of the items indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page, enables the system to maintain compatibility with a variety of data types and be able to extract relevant data from different data sources, as offered by present technology.

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 30-December-2002 with respect to the cited references have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


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10. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

March 4, 2003

  
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